

## Key Legislation Invests in Important Priorities

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to approve legislation that will make significant investments in health care and education. The Labor-Health-Education Appropriations bill now goes to the President.

“We can’t spend billions in Iraq and ignore the priorities at home,” said Wilson. “I’m so proud to be a part of a New Direction Congress that is making common sense investments in health care and education.”

This bipartisan legislation approved by the House today rejects the President’s cuts in health care, education, job training, and home heating assistance. The increased funding over the President’s request will significantly aid children in Ohio. In Ohio, the legislation would provide funding for 322 more new teachers than the President’s request and provide extra math and reading help to 4,686 more disadvantaged children. Additionally, the funding over the President’s request in the bill would provide access to after-school programs for 4,889 more children in Ohio.

The bill also makes the following critical investments in our future:

Ensuring health care for 1.2 million more Americans through community health centers;  
Issuing nearly 1,400 more life-saving medical research grants than the President, to potentially find cures for cancer, stroke, diabetes, Alzheimers’ and Parkinsons’ disease, with new investments in NIH;  
Strengthening quality education for our children by training 51,000 more teachers;  
Increasing the maximum Pell Grant for college to \$4,925--\$875 more than President Bush; and  
Helping 173,000 more adults, youth, and dislocated workers with job training and employment.

The Democratic bill also keeps the New Direction Congress’ promise to return fiscal responsibility to Washington, by complying with a five-year balanced budget plan.

“It is possible to invest in America’s future without putting it on the nation’s credit card and passing the bill on to our kids and grandkids,” Wilson said.

While the legislation enjoys bipartisan support in Congress, President Bush has threatened to veto this and other appropriations bills. The differences between the White House and the Congress on these and other critical appropriations total about \$20 billion. At the same time,

the President is demanding 10 times that amount to continue to fund the war in Iraq for another year.

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